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ICS Lecture Series 2007: Challenging the Logics of Empire

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The Institute for the
Study of Culture and
Society presents
Provost Lecture
Series 2007

CHALLENGING

the Logics of Empire

How does the logic of empire function?

How are acts of empire justified and legitimized?

How can contemporary logics of empire be challenged?

Diana Taylor

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Double Blind: The Torture Case

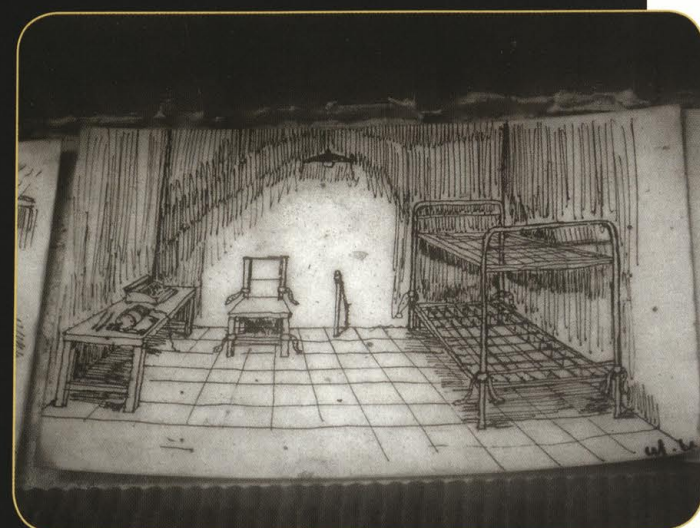
Thursday, February 8th, 2007 at 7:00 pm

206 Bowen Thompson Student Union (Theatre) • Reception to follow in lounge outside (200D)

How is the use of torture being justified? Does torture protect "us" from enemies or does it undermine our standing in the world?

Professor Taylor analyzes how the use of torture has been defended in the U.S. since the Abu Ghraib scandal. Drawing on her background in Latin American Studies and Performance Studies, she argues that a case study methodology has been used to explain the need for torture. She explores how proponents have used the (exemplary) case study, the limit case, and the scenario in order to bolster their arguments.

Diana Taylor is Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish at New York University and founding Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics. Her most recent book, *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*, won the Outstanding Book award from ATHE and the Kathleen Singer Kovaks Award from the MLA in 2004. She is also the author of *Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina's 'Dirty War'*, the award-winning *Theatre of Crisis: Drama and Politics in Latin America*, and articles that have appeared in *TDR*, *Theatre Journal*, *PMLA*, *Signs*, *Performing Arts Journal*, and *Gestos*, among others. She has directed and participated in staging productions in Mexico and the United States.



Drawing of cell by torture victim at Villa Grimaldi in Chile.
Photograph by Diana Taylor.

Gayatri Gopinath

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS

Queer Regions: From Fire to The Journey

Tuesday, February 13th, 2007 at 6:30 pm

Community Room (small side Ballroom), 202B Bowen Thompson Student Union • Reception to follow

How can we think about film and desire in relation to regionality? What is hidden by dominant narratives of global gayness?

Professor Gopinath asks why the recent film *The Journey* (2004) was received so differently than the acclaimed but controversial *Fire* (1996) by Deepa Mehta. She explores how shifting our focus from a "global gay" to a "queer regional" subject challenges our understanding of gender and sexuality. She argues that *The Journey*, directed by Indian American Ligya Pullappally, raises interesting questions about locating lesbian desire and regionalism within global contexts.

Gayatri Gopinath is Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies at University of California at Davis. She is the author of *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures*. Her articles on the politics of Bollywood, Bhangra music, sexuality, and diaspora have been published in *Social Text*, *positions: east asia cultures critique*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, and *Diaspora*. She is the recipient of various fellowships including the University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Still from Director Ligya J. Pullappally's *The Journey*.

T.J. Jackson Lears

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

American Empire

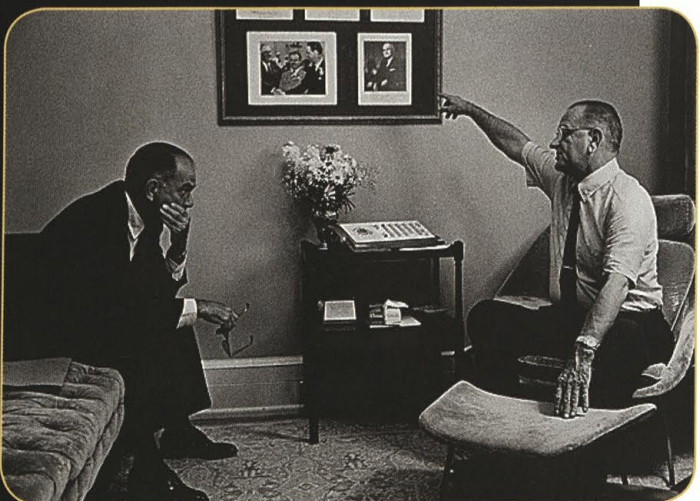
Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 7:00 pm

206 Bowen Thompson Student Union (Theatre) • Reception to follow in lounge outside (200D)

Is the concept of American Empire homegrown or imported? How do apologists reconcile empire with democracy and popular sovereignty?

While the (imperial) impulse to extend American power beyond our borders has pervaded U.S. history, it has also remained an embarrassment even to the most fervid expansionists. Professor Lears contends that a lust for empire flies in the face of republican suspicion of concentrated power, democratic celebration of popular sovereignty, and religious faith. He outlines a powerful countertradition against empire using the works of William James, Randolph Bourne, and J. William Fulbright.

T.J. Jackson Lears is the Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University and the editor of the distinguished journal *Raritan*. Lears' research interests include U. S. cultural and intellectual history, comparative religious history, literature and the visual arts, folklore and folk beliefs. His books include *Something for Nothing: Luck in America*, *Fables of Abundance: A Cultural History of Advertising in America*, which won the *Los Angeles Times* book prize for history, and *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920*. He writes regularly for *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Los Angeles Times Book Review* and has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and both the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations.



Senator J. William Fulbright and President
Lyndon B. Johnson on July 28, 1965.
Photograph by Yoichi Okamoto.

Special thanks go to the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Dean, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the American Culture Studies Program. We thank the Ethnic Studies department for their critical support in bringing Professors Taylor and Gopinath to campus.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS) at 419-372-0585 or mgeisbu@bgsu.edu

BATTLEGROUND STATES 2007:

Intersections of Poetics and Politics

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference

MARCH 30-31, 2007

The "Intersections of Poetics and Politics" graduate student conference is scheduled for Friday, March 30th through Saturday, March 31st and organized by Culture Club: the Cultural Studies Scholars' Association, an interdisciplinary organization devoted to the advancement of Cultural Studies scholarship. The conference includes keynote addresses by Ray Browne, Emeritus Professor of BGSU and founder of the *Journal of Popular Culture*, and Annette Wannamaker, author of the forthcoming book, *Boys in Children's Literature and Popular Culture*. For further information, please contact conference organizers at ACSCConf@bgsu.edu or 419-372-0176 or visit conference web site at bgsu.edu/acscconf